

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



Radiocommunication Bureau
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Circular Letter
CR/333

2 May 2012

To Administrations of Member States of ITU

Subject: WRC-12 decisions included in the Minutes of Plenary meeting relating to space services procedures

To the Director-General

Dear Sir/Madam

The World Radiocommunication Conference, Geneva, 2012 (WRC-12), adopted a partial revision of the Radio Regulations and decided that the revised provisions shall enter into force on 1 January 2013, with the exception of those provisions for which another date was specifically indicated. In addition, some issues thoroughly discussed in Committee 5 of the Conference and associated to the revision of provisions of the Radio regulations referring to space services were proposed for inclusion in the minutes of Plenary meetings. The purpose of this Circular Letter, is to gather and bring to the notice of administrations the conclusions by WRC-12 on the agreed texts included in the minutes of its Plenary meetings dealing with space service procedures.

Minutes of the 9th Plenary Meeting (Doc. CMR12/550)

Together with the revisions of Nos 11.41, 11.42 and 11.42A, WRC-12 approved as decisions of the conference the following texts:

“In adopting the modifications to Nos. 11.41 and 11.42 as well as the addition of No. 11.42A, WRC-12 recognizes that, by applying No. 11.41 to record an assignment in the MIFR under this provision, the notifying administration commits itself that it would comply with No. 11.42, as modified by this conference, for frequency assignments to space and terrestrial services allocated in the same frequency band with equal rights.” (§4.3 Doc. CMR12/550)

Minutes of the 12th Plenary Meeting (Doc. CMR12/553)

In response to a question on the applicability to Appendix 30B of the extension of satellite suspension periods from two to three years, WRC-12 approved the application of the three year suspension period under Appendix 30B as well as the approach proposed by the Bureau to implement that extended period via rules of procedure. (§9.2 Doc. CMR12/553)

Minutes of the 13th Plenary Meeting (Doc. CMR12/554)

- Regarding satellite leasing, “WRC-12 recognizes that an administration can bring into use, or continue the use of, frequency assignments for one of its satellite networks by using a space station which is under the responsibility of another administration or intergovernmental organization, provided that this latter administration or intergovernmental organization, after having been informed, does not object, within 90 days from the date of receipt of information, to the use of this space station for such purposes. This requirement shall not be applied retroactively and applies to assignments brought into use after the end of WRC-12.” (§3.12 Doc. CMR12/554)
- In response to the issue of the consolidation of frequency assignments for different GSO networks submitted by an administration at the same orbital position, WRC-12 “concluded to instruct:
 - a) the Bureau to develop and submit to the Radio Regulations Board the detailed description of the Bureau’s practices and actions, especially with respect to consolidating frequency assignments of different GSO networks submitted by an administration at the same orbital position, into frequency assignments of a single satellite network;
 - b) the Radio Regulations Board to develop the relevant Rules of Procedure.” (§3.16 Doc. CMR12/554)
- Relating to the Conference’s modification of No. 13.6, “considering Document 139, WRC-12 recognizes that the Bureau, when applying No. 13.6, requests administrations to provide information about the characteristics and use of satellite networks. In response, administrations need to provide to the BR information on the actual use of the notified characteristics of commercial satellite networks.” (§3.18 Doc. CMR12/554)
- In addition to the revisions of Nos 11.44, 11.44.1, 11.44B and 11.49, WRC-12 approved as decisions of the conference the following texts:

“In case of a satellite failure, especially that of a newly launched satellite, during the ninety-day bringing into use period that renders the satellite technically incapable of operating in a given frequency band, the notifying administration may submit the case to the Board for its consideration and careful investigation, taking into account all supporting materials, including details on the satellite that failed, to enable the Board to decide on the matter, as appropriate. In considering such a matter, the Board may determine on a case-by-case basis whether it is appropriate to apply the provisions of No. 11.49 to the relevant frequency assignments in this case.

The ITU-R is invited to study, as a matter of urgency, to determine what regulatory changes, if any, should be made to the RR under agenda item 7 for WRC-15 to address the issues above.

In parallel with the above ITU-R study activity, the Board is instructed to consider the development of a RoP taking into account the results of the ITU-R studies, if they become available, to cover the period between WRC-12 and WRC-15.” (§9.1 Doc. CMR12/554)

“WRC-12 recognizes that the issue of using one space station to bring frequency assignments at different orbital locations into use within a short period of time was not the intent of these new provisions, and ways to address this issue require study. WRC-12 took significant steps in this regard with changes to bringing into use and suspension provisions, as well as to No. 13.6. In examining this issue, it must be emphasized that there are legitimate reasons why an administration or operator may need to move a spacecraft from one orbital position to a new orbital position, and care should be taken not to constrain the legitimate use of fleet manoeuvres and management. Nevertheless, administrations are encouraged to examine their own national regulatory provisions to ensure that opportunities for abusive practices are minimized. Until ITU-R studies are completed, where an administration brings into use frequency assignments at a given orbital location using an already in-orbit satellite, the BR is requested to make an enquiry to that administration as to the last previous orbital location/frequency assignments brought into use with that satellite and make such information available.” (§9.2 Doc. CMR12/554)

The Bureau remains at the disposal of your administration for any clarification you may require with respect to the subjects covered in this Circular Letter.

Yours faithfully,

F. Rancy
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

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